

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and remarks presented herein. Claims 1, 4 and 7-17, stand rejected. Claims 2, 3, and 5 are objected to, and claims 6 and 18 are allowed.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 4, and 7 herein without prejudice. Claim 2 is amended to incorporate the language of previous claim 1, and claim 3 is amended to depend from claim 2. In addition, claim 8 is amended to recite the step of combining a sample from a human host with a monoclonal antibody that binds specifically to an antigen, and also to include the language of claim 2. No new matter is added by these amendments.

In light of these amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 2, 3, 5, and 8-17, in addition to previously allowed claims 6 and 18.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 7-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement, for the reasons of record.

To further prosecution, claims 1, 4, and 7 are cancelled herein, and claim 8 is amended to incorporate the language of claim 2. Applicants note that at page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claim 2 is adequately described. Thus, Applicants submit that present claim 8, as well as dependent claims 9-17, also are adequately described.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 2, 3, and 5 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 2 is amended herein to incorporate the language of previous claim 1, which is cancelled herein without prejudice. Claim 3 is amended to depend from claim 2. Claim 5 also

depends from claim 2. Thus, present claims 2, 3, and 5 include all of the limitations of previous base claim 1, and are allowable.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claims 2, 3, and 5.

Allowed Claims

Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 6 and 18.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, and 8-18 are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned agent if such would further prosecution.

Please charge \$1050 for the Petition for Extension of Time fee, and apply any other charges or credits, to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 23, 2008

Elizabeth N. Kaytor
Elizabeth N. Kaytor, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 53,103

Fish & Richardson P.C.
60 South Sixth Street
Suite 3300
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (612) 335-5070
Facsimile: (612) 288-9696